

I claim:

1. In a process for the molecular oxidation of ethylene with a solid particulate oxidation catalyst to form ethylene oxide, the improvement which comprises oxidizing the ethylene by contact with an admixture of a solid particulate oxidation catalyst and a solid particulate inert which has been treated with an alkali metal salt.
- 5 2. The process of claim 1 wherein the particulate inert is alumina.
3. The process of claim 1 wherein the oxidation catalyst comprises silver supported on alumina.

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